GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:446
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
VISIT OF INDIAN DELEGATIONS ABROAD
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Mohale Shri Punnulal;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Panda Shri Prabodh;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Tirath Smt. Krishna;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian delegations which visited other countries since April, 2004, till date, country-wise;

(b) the details of the discussion held and bilateral agreement signed with them;

(c) whether he recently visited some countries after assuming charge; and

(d) if so, the extent to which relations with these countries were strengthened as a result of such visits ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) Indian Delegations other than EAM visited the following countries:

SRI LANKA:

Additional Secretary (FA) led a delegation to Sri Lanka for six days from 26thApril, 2004 to review the hospital project in Hatton.

PAKISTAN:

A delegation led by Additional Secretary (HR), Ministry of External Affairs, visited Islamabad and Karachi from 6-13 May 2004 for inspection of High Commission in Islamabad and Government of India properties in Karachi.

MALAYSIA:

Joint Secretary (UNP) visited Kuala Lumpur to participate in the meeting of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine.

INDONASIA:

JS (L&T) visited Bali (Indonesia) from 21.6.04 to 25.6.04 to attend 43rd Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO).

MYANMAR:

I. Delegation headed by JS (SEA-I) visited Myanmar on 16-20, May, 2004 to hold discussions on Yangon-Mandalay Trunk Line Project and Kaladan Multi-modal Transport Project with the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Transport of the Government of Myanmar. No agreement was signed during the visit. As a result of visit, MOU and the financing details of the projects were finalized.

II. JS (MER) visited on 1-2, June, 2004 to hold discussions with the Myanmar officials on various issues concerning the organization of India-ASEAN Car Rally 2004. JS(MER) also held discussions with Deputy foreign Minister and Director General (ASEAN) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs . His visit resulted in agreement on further steps to be taken in respect to proposed India-ADEAN Car Rally.

SINGAPORE:

Foreign Secretary visited Singapore on 29-30 April 2004 to review bilateral relations and cooperation in diverse areas. The visit strengthened bilateral cooperation and understanding.

VIETNAM

I. Secretary (ANA) visited Hanoi, on 4-5 May, 2004 to participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the victory at Dien, Bien Phu. During his visit he called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and the Head of the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam to discuss and review bilateral relations.. The visit strengthened bilateral relations.

II. JS (MER) visited Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City from 27-29 May, 2004. to meet senior officials of the Vietnamese Government to

discuss organization of the India-ASEAN Car Rally. JS (MER) also had preliminary discussions with officials of the Government and industry of Vietnam for setting up of an Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Vietnam.

III. JS (SEA-I) had a familiarization visit to Ho Chi Minh City on 1-2 April, 2004 to strengthening of bilateral relations.

THAILAND:

I. Secretary (ANA) visited Thailand on 23.04.2004 as special envoy of EAM in relation with ARF membership issues.

II. JS (MER) visited Thailand from 30th April, 2004 to 2nd May, 2004 for ACD Finance Minister`s meeting.

PHILIPPINES :

Dir. (UNES) visited Manila on 17-18 May, 2004 to attend Regional Hearing on Migration for the Asia Pacific.

ARF:

I. A Delegation led by Foreign Secretary participated in the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM) held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 12 May 2004 to prepare for the July 11th ARF Ministerial Meeting.

II. A delegation led by Additional Secretry (IO) participated at the ARF Inter-Sessional Group meeting held in Yangon, Myanmar on 11-14 April 2004;

III. Visits of AS(IO) as Special Envoy of EAM to Brunei Darussalam and Manila, Philippines on May 5-7, 2004 to deliver EAM`s letter on expansion of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

IV. Special Secy (ER) visited Malaysia from 14-15 April, 2004 as special envoy of EAM and had discussions on development of Indo-Malaysian relations as also relations between India and ASEAN. Visit helped to convey India`s views on expansion of ARF membership, further India-ASEAN relationship and discussing issues of importance in enhancing bilateral relations.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA :

Joint Secretary (EA) visited Republic of Korea on 11-14 April, 2004 to attend DG level Foreign Office Consultations between India and South-Korea. The Foreign Office Consultations Provided an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral regional and International issues and prepare for the forthcoming VVIP visit to India.

SAUDI ARABIA:

I. A delegation led by MOS (EA) visited Saudi Arabia from June 13-16, 2004 for signing the Haj Agreement for Haj 2005. This culminated in the signing of the Agreement regarding various issues pertaining to Indian pilgrimage.. In terms of the agreement the total number of Indian pilgrims performing the haj would be 117,000. Of these 72 ,000 would perform Haj through the Haj Committee and 45,000 through private tour operators. During the visit , MOS (EA) called on the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on june 13 in Jeddah and delivered a letter from the Indian Prime Minister to King Fahd.

II. A composite delegation led by Secretary (ANA) visited Taif and Riyadh from April 9-11, 2004 to review in detail the arrangements made during Haj 2004 and to plan comprehensively for Haj 2005. No agreement was signed during this visit.

JORDAN:

A delegation headed by MOS(EA) Shri E.Ahmed visited Jordan from 16-18 June, 2004. Detailed discussions were held by MOS (EA) with HRH Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Halaiqa, Dy. PM & Minister of Industry and Trade, in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister, and Mr. Amjad Majali, Minister of Labour, in his capacity as Acting Foreign Minister. No Treaty/Agreement was signed during the visit.

QATAR:

Secretary (ANA) visited Doha from 25-27 May, 2004 to participate in UN sponsored International Donor`s Conference for Iraq. No agreement was signed during the visit.

EGYPT:

Secretary (ANA) visited Cairo from 19-21 June, 2004 for annual India-Arab League consultations and Foreign Office Consultations with Egypt. Meetings were held with Arab League Secretary General, Advisor to the President, Foreign Minister and Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs. The talks focused on bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

POLAND:

JS(Europe-II), accompanied the delegation led by Secretary (IPP),Ministry of Commerce & Industry to Poland on 22-24 April, 2004 to attend Review Meeting of the Indo-Polish Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

SLOVENIA:

JS (Europe-II), accompanied the delegation led by, AS Deptt. of Commerce on 20-22 April, 2004 to attend 5th session of Indo-Slovene ICM, enhance bilateral cooperation.

RUSSIA:

Foreign Secretary visited Moscow on 23-25 June 2004. Bilateral meetings with Russian Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister on political and economic issues were held;

TAJIKISTAN:

Secretary (ANA) visited Dushanbe on 7-9 May, 2004 for consultations with Tajik authorities. Talks were held with the Tajik President and Defence Minister.

ARMENIA:

JS (Eurasia) visited Yerevan on 3-4 May 2004. Talks were held with Foreign Minister, Minister of Science and Technology, Deputy Minister of Defence, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs.

TURKEY:

AS(IS) led the delegation on 1-2 June, 2004 to attend the first meeting of the JWG on Combating Terrorism with Turkey. Discussions were centered on exchange of information on terrorism challenges and possibilities of cooperation.

SWITZERLAND :

I. Foreign Secretary visited Geneva on 17-20 March, 2004 to attend 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).
II. JS (UNES) visited Geneva on 6-16 April, 2004 to attend 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

AUSTRIA:

JS(L&T) visited Vienna from 29.3.2004 to 8.4.2004 to attend 43rd Session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space COPUOS.

THE NETHERLANDS:

JS (L&T) visited The Hague from 7.6.04 to 15.6.04 to attend the Second Meeting of the Special Commission on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance.

GERMANY:

I. Foreign Secretary visited Berlin from 31.3.2004 to 1.4.2004 to attend an International Conference `Afghanistan and the International Community - A Partnership for the future`.

II. Director (UNES) visited Bonn on 15-25 June, 2004 to attend 20th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific & Technical Advice (SBSTA) on the UN Framework Convention on Climate change.

USA:

I. Director (L&T) visited New York from 14.6.04 to 25.6.04 to attend 37th Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

II. JS (UNES) visited New York on 23rd May, 2004 to 4th June, 2004 to attend 12th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

III. Director (UNES-II) visited New York on 23rd May to 4th June, 2004 to attend 3rd Session of the UN Ad-hoc Committee on Comprehensive & Integral International Convention on Protection of the Rights & Dignity of Persons with Disability.

IV. Additional Secretary (IO), visited USA on 31.03.2004 to 2.4.2004 to hold bilateral discussions on India-US relations. The discussions in the visit were part of ongoing bilateral consultations.

CANADA:

I. Additional Secretary (IS) visited Canada on May 13-14 , 2004 to attend the sixth meeting of India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter - Terrorism.. Discussions were part o f ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism.

II. Joint Secretary (UNP) visited Canada from 3 to 6 May 2004 to participate in an international conference on the Military Operations Law Conference.

(c) & (d) External Affairs Minister visited the following countries after assuming charge:

NEPAL:

EAM visited Nepal on 4-5 June, 2004 and held discussions with His Majesty King Gyanendra, PM, Shri S.B. Deuba, former Prime Ministers Surya Bahadur Thapa and Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, Shri Pashupati Shamsher Rana of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, Madhesi Leaders and the Chief of Army Staff. No agreement was signed. The Visit provided an opportunity to review and further strengthen bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas of mutual interest including in the area of Hydro power, trade and security-related issued.

USA:

EAM attended the funeral of former US President Ronald Reagan on June 11, 2004. EAM met the US Secretary of State and the two sides reaffirmed the importance attached to India-US relations.

UNITED KINGDOM:

EAM visited London on 16th June, 2004 . He met UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. The two Ministers had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relations and major international developments. EAM`s meeting with UK Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw was the first high level contact with the UK government after the new government has assumed office.

CHINA:

Delegation led by the EAM visited China on 21-22, June, 2004. EAM attended the ACD meeting on 21-22 June, 2004 at Qingdao, China. In the margins of the multilateral meeting, he met his Chinese counterpart . Li Zhoxing. Foreign Minister Li conveyed to the EAM that China is ready to work with the new government in India to develop deeper relations in the political, economic, military and other fields. EAM conveyed to Foreign Minister Li that the Government of India attaches great importance to relations with China. He invited Foreign Minister Li to visit India and reiterated Prime Minister Manmohan Singh`s invitation to Premier Wen jiabao to visit India. Later this year. Foreign Minister Li accepted this invitation and conveyed his hope that he would be able to visit India in the near future. EAM also underlined that India is committed to developing relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other`s concerns and equality.